

The Fine Guide

Reading this information will save you
money, time, grief and stress.



1997

The Festival Info Line on 0839 66 88 99 provides up-to-the-minute information on this years attractions and travel to and from the Festival site. Calls are charged at 49 pence per minute at all times.

The 600 acre site is on the edge of Pilton village off the A361 between Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury. It makes sense to travel by public transport if you possibly can, reducing congestion and pollution. Beat the queues by leaving your car at home. Spread the load, come early to pick the choicest spot and get relaxed.

Gates open 9am Wednesday 25th June.

Catch a Coach, skip the jam

By Bus: National Express are running coach services for Festival ticket holders from all over the country direct to the Festival Bus Station. Details are on the Info Line 0839 66 88 99. Buy coach tickets on the booking line 0990 808080. Badgerline are laying on additional services from Bath and Bristol and a regular shuttle to the site from Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet.

By Rail: BR are laying on extra trains to Castle Cary station from where there is a free coach shuttle for ticket holders only to the Festival Bus Station.

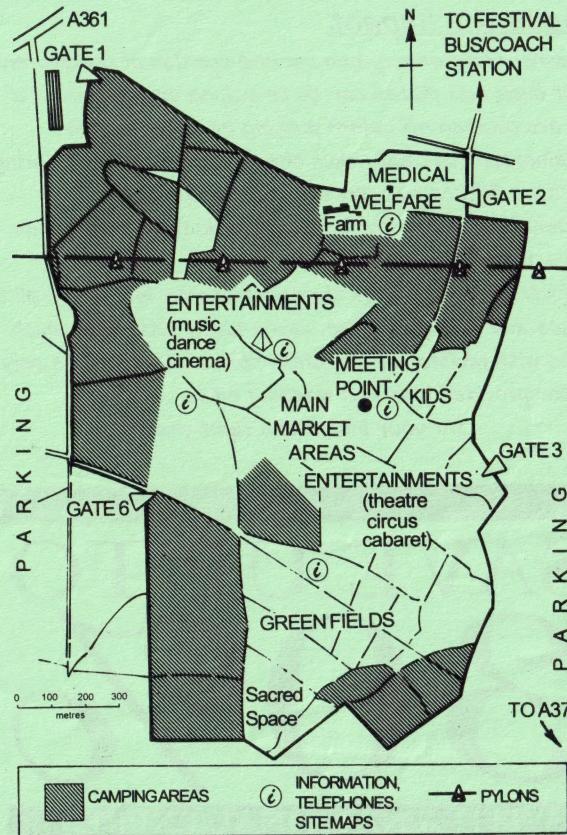
Or Queue...



By Road: Road signs will direct you to the nearest available parking - don't stop until you have been directed to a space. People with mobility disabilities should follow the signs to the dedicated parking area where there is transport to the stewarded camping area. Be aware the site is a hilly farm: rough tracks and slippery mud possible. The Festival car parks are free, so don't be ripped off by the unofficial parking merchants nearby - there is no advantage. The car parks outside the security fence are vast so try to remember where you left your car - the numbered pedestrian gates can help. When packing remember you will be carrying all your stuff a long way - twice. Don't park on verges, in gateways or private roads - you will be towed away by the Police incurring expense (£140) and great inconvenience.

Caravans and campervans will not be admitted to the car parks. A special £20 ticket should be obtained in advance from the Festival Office on 01458 834596 for admittance to the signposted site.

The only drop-off/pick-up point is on the A361 on the Shepton Mallet side of Pilton village. Once within range Radio Avalon on 87.7 FM is good for traffic news. Be prepared for traffic hold-ups remembering to keep all passengers well watered if the weather is hot, using loos well before the site in case of long waits. Expect even longer delays leaving on Monday unless you go very early.



At the Gates

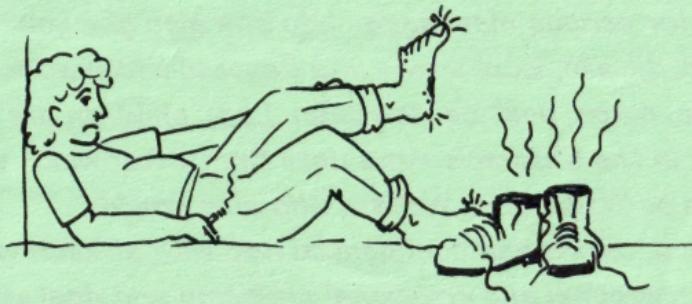
If you have your friend's ticket it is essential to get it to them before the Festival. Don't expect to be able to meet a friend at the Gate. Be prepared to show your ticket on the way in, but don't give it to anyone even if they look like stewards until you reach the pedestrian turnstiles at the security fence. Until then keep your ticket secure. You've already paid for your souvenir programme, so collect it on entering, your one and only chance. Please trust the passout system, and make sure that you comply with it if you exit and plan to return.

Only bring what you can afford to lose, but please don't bring any animals, wax flares, glass bottles or large quantities of beer - they will not be admitted. Travel light, with less to haul across fields in the dark. Most of your needs except shelter can be met on site, now including, thanks to Nat West, the facility to cash cheques with a bankcard during the 3 days, from 10am to 6pm.

It's Hot and Cool

It is advisable to bring warm/waterproof clothing, sensible footwear (seriously), a torch to help you avoid lurking tent ropes. Please be hygienic enough to wash your hands after using the loos.

Avoid burns to yourself and others by lighting fires very considerately, away from tents (especially nylon) and without wood from the hedges. Definitely don't dig holes. Always change camping gaz outside tents - never inside, even if it is raining. Mother says stay cool, safe and well. Be patient. If a moving crowd situation develops then try not to add to it. Listen and take notice of stage announcements which offer alternative routes away from a potential build-up of people. Lay back for a while to allow the exodus to subside.



Safe and Sound

The patrolling campsite wardens are looking out for dangerous fires, accidents and risky situations, please help them. If you are unlucky enough to be a victim of crime, report it to the Police.

Tents are not at all secure. Sad persons who try to steal will find it harder if you take some basic precautions: postcode your camping equipment and be more inventive about secreting your money than leaving it in your jeans overnight. Essential valuables should definitely be postcoded and can be left at the free, 24 hour, Property Lock-Ups which are prominent around the site. They also sell cheap loo rolls and soap. Try not to leave your campsite unattended. Also beware leaving your car unlocked as you either load or unload.



Ease your Ways

600 acres is huge and tiring on foot. Not counting any delightful distractions or baggage it takes at least an hour in daylight to walk from end to end of the site. Look for the less obviously popular places to camp. Try to note where you camped in relation to a numbered Fire Point or other landmark. The surroundings change dramatically when dark falls and more tents get erected, or crowds gather, and disorientation easily sets in, not only to children.

Arrange to meet friends at accessible places (not the classic Mixing Desk!), best would be the Meeting Point or some quieter location on the map - and remember that time disappears at the Festival: so be prepared to wait.

If you get lost try leaving a message at any or all of the 5 Info Points, or with Radio Avalon. The index cards at Info are best for serious messages. Info can also give you transport details, local towns and Festival information, directions, maps, post cards home. Lost children are cared for in the Children's Area until 8pm, after which they are taken to Wagonshed Welfare who also provide experienced, caring and confidential help with all kinds of practical, personal and emotional problems and deal with lost and found property. Other physical problems are dealt with at Medical, or alternatively in the Greenfield.

Illegal drugs are no more legal on site than off, and the police are patrolling. If you are foolish enough to experiment with drugs, this really isn't the place to start and in any case is the road to nowhere. If you react badly, the crowds and the sheer size of the Festival can be very frightening indeed. Drunkenness is antisocial. Drug/alcohol cocktails can be lethal. Prolonged exposure to high volume noise can cause severe hearing damage, cancer can be caused by the sun on unprotected skin and you highly risk HIV infection from unprotected sex - however good it may all feel at the time. Your body is precious and vulnerable: shield it.

On Leaving the Festivities

A souvenir review of the entertainment virtually as it happened is available for £1 early Monday 30th June at exits and Info Points. Advance orders for mailing can be placed at Info sites for £1.50 (including p&p). It is really sorted to plot your return journey in advance.

Lessen the Impact

A greener Glastonbury has banned the use of polystyrene. Paper cups and plates can be re-p脉ped or composted if they are cleaned off before putting into the special containers, ditto cans. Join the Green Litter Crew during the Litter Blitzes by collecting rubbish around your campsite. Bin bags are freely available from Information Points. Don't burn plastic.

The River Whitelake flows through the site, into which all the ditches and streams drain. It's a lovely little river which teams with wildlife, all too easily poisoned, so please only use the provided loos and washing sites.

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This fine guide is compiled by Mid-Somerset CND's Festival Information Service - bringing you a hassle-free Festival and a safer world. We wish you a wild and wonderful time!